

WHITE HOUSE TENNIS COURT

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 5.—The White House tennis court is now taking its place in the activities of the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt. Although the spring has been backward, the leaves are now on the trees, the grass in the White House grounds is green, and every afternoon there are scores of young and athletic officials scattered throughout the many departments of the government, who are anxious for a summons from the President—sometimes it comes by telephone, sometimes by messenger—to be over on the tennis court about 4:30 p. m.

It is of course a matter of distinction to belong to the tennis cabinet. There has never been more than a dozen members and the President invites in new men rather sparingly. During the present spring there have been two initiates—Postmaster General Geo. von L. Meyer, of Massachusetts, and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Beekman Winthrop, until recently governor of Porto Rico. Whether they will become "steadies" is yet to be determined. Mr. Meyer was invited to play soon after he entered the cabinet but has not been heard from much since. Whether or not he played a game that met with the President's approval is not known.

The President has shown quite a weakness for Harvard graduates in his tennis cabinet, as he has, as a matter of fact, in his real cabinet and in other important government positions. A young and athletic Harvard graduate coming to Washington is pretty sure to be "tried out" on the big court right at the rear of the White House offices. Von L. Meyer and Winthrop are Harvard graduates, as is First Assistant Secretary of State Robert Bacon, who was the President's classmate. Bacon is one of the men often invited to the tennis court and is very much of a personal favorite with the President. Their families visit much back and forth. Bacon is probably the best athlete of all those who play on the tennis court. He has strength enough and a physique powerful enough to knock a tennis ball over against the Washington Monument, a quarter of a mile away.

Secretary of the Interior James R. Garfield and Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Labor Lawrence O. Murray used to be asked to the tennis court almost daily when the President was playing. So did Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot. Garfield used to be Commissioner of Corporations and he and Murray were colleagues in the same department. None of these three has been seen very much on the tennis court this season, but that may not signify anything. The Washington weather this spring has been fitful and only on occasional days has it been possible to have a game. For while the President often goes horseback riding when it is raining hard, and often goes tramping in the country when the weather is anything but agreeable, he ventures out on the tennis court only when the temperature is really comfortable for playing.

It has been rumored around Washington that the President has become a little weary of Secretary Garfield's frequent visits to the White House offices. The cartoonists have been drawing pictures of Garfield and his multitudinous bootstraps White Houseward and some are saying that the President is not so enthusiastic about the presence of the Secretary of the Interior and son of a former President as he used to be. However, it may be that "Jimmie" will be playing on the tennis court as usual now that the warm days have come. Hitherto the Department of Commerce and Labor has been more favored than any other department in the number of tennis players who vie with the President. For besides Garfield, as Commissioner of Corporations, and Murray, Herbert Knox Smith, a young man who succeeded to the chair vacated by Mr. Garfield when he became Secretary of the Interior, has been often asked to play tennis on the White House court.

Real cabinet officers have not shared much in the President's tennis sport. Justice Moody, when Secretary of the Navy and later when Attorney General, was invited over for an occasional game but he did not take very kindly to the strenuous work with racket. As a Harvard student Mr. Moody used to be a good baseball player, but Mr. Roosevelt can not play baseball. Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, formerly Secretary of Commerce and Labor and a Yale athlete in his college days, was invited over to the tennis court once or twice but did not continue that form of presidential exercise. About the only member of the diplomatic corps who has been much upon the tennis court is Ambassador Jernstedt, of France, a little man, with black whiskers and black eyes, who although well into middle life, is remarkably nimble in stopping swift curves.

Naturally there is some rivalry among government officials and among

members of the diplomatic corps to participate in the President's athletic sports. The German Ambassador, Speck von Sternberg, is one of the President's favorites but has not figured much with the tennis racket. He occasionally goes riding with the President, however, and, before his recent departure for the Fatherland, frequently rode out into the country with the President and the Roosevelt boys, who are learning to jump high fences on horseback. Their instructor in this was the Ambassador, who is light of weight and an excellent horseman.

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., has been occupying the White House tennis court in recent days more than his father. The lad has been home from Harvard on a vacation and almost every afternoon for a time invited in some of his young friends here in the city for a game. Miss Hagner, who is Mrs. Roosevelt's social secretary, has also had possession of the court on occasional afternoons and has given some strenuous exhibitions of tennis.

The court is kept in the best of condition and is carefully screened from the public eye. It is laid out close to the White House offices on the south, so that the players sometimes go out and come in through the windows of either Secretary Loeb's office or of the President's private office. It is very convenient, for if Secretary Loeb has a matter of pressing importance, he simply raises the window and walks out upon the court to the President. Such things, however, are of rare occurrence. The President does not like to be interrupted at his play, unless there is good reason for it.

A tall screen of blue material, punctured with holes to let the wind through, is erected on the end next executive avenue, which passes between the White House grounds and the State and War and Navy buildings. There is another similar screen on the east end of the court. These screens also keep the tennis balls from getting beyond immediate reach. On the south of the court are the private grounds of the White House and a fat policeman is generally there to prevent intrusions. Visitors to Secretary Loeb's offices and clerks high up in the Navy Department are about the only spectators of these presidential games. The Navy clerks are especially favored in that regard and know more about the quality of tennis on the White House court than any other persons, except the players themselves.

The fate of this fine tennis court, which is certain to be featured in the history of the Republic, will be a matter of interest when the Roosevelts leave the White House. No one of the candidates for the Presidency in either of the big parties has a penchant for tennis or other strenuous exercise and likely enough the court will be dug up and the place grassed over, unless the next occupant of the White House is willing to keep it up for the pleasure of friends or as a memento of the strenuousness of his predecessor.

Some of the President's tennis companions share his other sports. Secretary Garfield, for instance, often goes on the long cross country walks with him—walks that begin over in Virginia or from some other distant point that the President and his companions usually reach by horseback or in carriages. For the President's friends have dissuaded him from appearing much upon the streets of Washington, except at unexpected times and in unexpected places. It has often been said that the President can go with safety almost anywhere that any other citizen can go, provided his going is not heralded in advance. But if it was his custom when starting on an afternoon ride to proceed up 17th street, as he used to do when he first became President, anyone who meditated harm could easily watch for him on that thoroughfare. Hence in more recent times, when the President wants to go horseback riding or walking in the country, he rides in a carriage to some point just outside the city and begins his exercise from there.

Two cabinet officers have been his horseback companions a great deal—Secretary of State Root and Secretary of War Taft. The latter is a man of great avoidpoids and one would think could not enjoy equestrian exercise. On the contrary Secretary Taft is a good horseman and gets a lot of pleasure out of riding into the country on a good steed. The President's favorite horseback companion among cabinet officers, however, is Secretary Root. It was printed in some of the newspapers not long ago that the President had discontinued his rides with Secretary Root and this was taken as an evidence that the two were not as friendly as of yore. But this statement was untrue, for Secretary Root still goes horseback riding with the President, and they often go considerable distances into Maryland or Virginia in the late afternoon.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, also goes horseback riding with the President frequently. They have been personal friends for many years and during the portion of the year when the Senator's house on Massachusetts avenue is open, hardly a week goes by but what the President is a visitor there. He frequently goes there to dinner, although it is rarely known to outsiders, and, returning

ALL THIRD TERM TALK IS ABSURD

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 6.—President Roosevelt has not allowed the public interest in politics to subside of late, although he has been working more than ever under cover in carrying out his plans to commit the Republican party to the continuation of his reform policies. In private he has been dealing an occasional blow to the third term talk, which he recently characterized as "absolute nonsense." While he was no more emphatic on the subject than he has been heretofore, he has convinced the doubtful among his friends that he will not be President after March 4, 1909. At the same time he has stated that he can not publicly reiterate his statement of election night in 1904 because if he should do so there would be nothing to prevent politicians from bringing pressure upon him to reiterate again, as soon as the third term talk revived yet once more and then his enemies would be saying, "He doth protest too much," and claim that he really wanted the nomination.

Secretary Taft is keeping in the limelight and for the present is the most prominent of all the presidential aspirants. He will begin his political speaking soon in the southwest, for he is now a full fledged candidate.

Reports were abroad a few days ago that the President was going to give out a statement about a third term and that it would be a "sockdolager." These reports were based on a conversation the President had, in which he explained that when the proper time came, if the third term talk was still persisted in, he would say something which would settle the matter for good and all. But strange as the statement may seem at first thought, the President is rather pleased just now at the burst of third term talk. He has intimated as much to certain of his visitors within a week. In short he is willing to be the favorite son of the United States for a while, because it enables him to hold his political forces together and prevents them from scattering to the support of other candidates, some of whom the President might not like to O. K.

So while the opposition to him is putting forth favorite sons in several States, to hold their strength together in those States and in the hope of securing delegates who can be transferred to some other candidate at the proper time, whom these opposition interests will approve, the President is playing the favorite son racket to head the opposition Republicans off. And he seems to be playing that sort of a game with some success.

It should not be concluded that the President is at all deceived by the flood of third term babbling. He knows that much of it is sincere. He also knows that many Senators and Representatives are declaring for his re-nomination who do not want him re-nominated at all, but who think that such declarations will help them very much at home. There are several United States Senators in this category. They are coming up for reelection next year and a few of them will have a hard struggle to secure a majority of their legislatures. So they come out strong for Roosevelt, hoping to gain the support of Roosevelt followers. Thus they may be able to help themselves and incidentally they help the President for the time being, because they keep up the third term enthusiasm and enable the President to play his role as the favorite son of the United States.

There are very many members of the National House who are playing the same kind of politics as the Senators are playing. Their districts are close or, it may be, these members are hard pressed by other aspirants. The members know that President Roosevelt is exceedingly popular with their constituents. Hardly a week goes by but what half a dozen such members come down to Washington and give out interviews about their strong conviction that only Roosevelt will do for the next nomination.

Patronage figures considerably also among what might be called these sincere declarations for Roosevelt. The President does not hesitate to take patronage away from Republican Congressmen who do not agree with him. In every district represented by a Republican, outside of some of the large city districts, there are many postoffices and the commissions of some of them

from a horseback ride, the President often stops at the Lodge residence for a short visit.

The President's athletic propensities have had a marked influence on the rest of Washington. His own love of outdoor exercise has stimulated officials and also private individuals in society to give more attention to outdoor sports than ever before. Hence with the coming of spring the residents of Washington are getting out for various forms of exercise, just as the President is doing.

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are constantly expiring. Republican Congressmen without a say as to this patronage find themselves in a sorry plight. Their constituents are likely to reason that the members are without influence at Washington.

Some of these men who do not like to prostrate themselves before the third term movement are coming out for the nomination of Secretary Taft because they reason that that will please the President. He has made no formal statement of his preference for the nomination of the Secretary of War, although it is known that he is working to that end. The Federal officeholders in many States are also in about the same fix, for they realize that it is a serious matter to declare for the nomination of any other candidate than Taft. This is particularly true in the southern States, where the President is using patronage with a vengeance to further his plans for making the next national convention bow to his will.

Thus the strange political situation in the Republican party grows more complicated every week, and no one knows just what the outcome will be. The sincerity of a large army of Republican Senators, members and other officeholders is a matter of doubt, and there is no telling but what, as the time for electing delegates to the national convention draws near next winter, they may desert the President. By that time he will have only a year remaining of his term and the nearer he comes to private life the less regard the officeholders will have for him. There is a likelihood that this will be true in the South, as the President has been severe on officeholders there, as compared with the treatment they have had from former Republican administrations.

Then it is also a question whether the Southern officeholders will take kindly to the candidacy of Secretary Taft. Already copies of a speech that the Secretary made last year to the Republican state convention at Greensboro, N. C., are being circulated extensively throughout that section. In this speech he upbraided the Southern Republicans for being governed by officeholders and for being in politics chiefly for the Federal places. The speech caused much comment in the South at the time and did not enhance the esteem in which the Secretary of War was held by the Republicans there. Now they are being reminded that they would have little to hope for, should the Secretary be nominated and elected as President of the United States.

The political warfare in Ohio between the Taft and Foraker factions goes on with great eruptions of hot air. The Taft followers here claim that Senators Foraker and Dick are quitting. The Foraker supporters here say that Secretary Taft is getting very sick of his bargain and wishes he were out of the Presidential running, as they think he will be before another spring rolls round. Both sides are playing distinct politics from Washington, and the best informed people here believe the fight is likely to be very close.

It is known that Secretary Taft fears Senator Foraker will be endorsed for reelection as Senator, whatever the outcome of the struggle for Presidential delegates may be. That might mean the loss of the next Legislature and also the loss of the State in the Presidential campaign. The Taft men have had some careful canvassing done in the cities and they say it is by no means certain that Bryan can not capture Ohio.

They conclude that practically all the large cities of the State, unless it be Cincinnati, may elect Democratic members of the Legislature. There is a big radical element in the Ohio cities. Furthermore, the factional fight is growing so bitter among the Republicans that it will be difficult to get them to the polls for one ticket in November, 1908.

The Foraker press bureau and the Taft press bureau are busily at work here in Washington. The Taft press bureau says Secretary Foraker is now trying to run away from a primary and that he is doing this because he has seen the State is against him. The Foraker press bureau here is saying that President Roosevelt is opposing an early primary because he is satisfied, after a careful investigation of the situation, that Secretary Taft can not win the four delegates at large and that he (the President) would interpret the failure of Ohio to elect Taft delegates as a rebuke to his administration, which would weaken his influence with Congress and encourage anti-administration Republicans in other States to raise the standard of political revolt. Probably the truth is that both sides are afraid to make the test in Ohio.

The Foraker press bureau in Washington is also making much of the fact that President Roosevelt may at any time desert the Taft boom, as he has deserted other causes the moment he has seen they were doomed to go down. There is no doubt that the Taft boomers feel a little uneasy on that point, although at present the President is squarely behind Secretary Taft and proclaims to callers that he wants Taft nominated. But he has said several things, also, that he wants above all things a man of the Taft type, and, of course, he might slip away from the Ohio supporters of the Secretary of War at a critical moment if he saw that the Taft boom was likely to have a hard time getting a majority in Ohio.

So the followers of Senator Foraker are ringing the changes on such a contingency. Very truthfully they point out that the President has thus far authorized no one to say that Secretary Taft is his choice for the Presidency. The President has again and again refused to be bound by what he has said in private conversation. Some months ago Secretary Loeb issued a bulletin on the subject, because some of the statements the President had made in private conversations had become public and were making trouble. This was the official bulletin:

"For many years it has been the inviolable practice never to attempt to quote a private conversation with the President. It has been found that as a matter of fact the man who quotes such a conversation usually misquotes

it, consciously or unconsciously, and such an alleged conversation is under no circumstances to be held as calling for either explanation or denial by the President. The President is responsible only for what he himself says in public, for what he writes or for what he explicitly authorizes the proper government officials to state in his behalf."

This statement has been used more than once and has figured in controversies out of which certain distinguished men have emerged as members of the Ananias Club. It may give the President a great advantage and yet it is probably necessary to protect him against persons who might do a lot of harm by unwarranted or untruthful utterances.

But this statement is being used in Ohio to shake the loyalty of Roosevelt followers to Taft for it is recognized that the Secretary is not particularly strong of his own account in Ohio but, with the President behind him, would be formidable. "Because Representative Burton or any of the other Taft lieutenants go up to the White House and after shaking hands with the President come out and shout for Taft," say these Foraker politicians. "It is no indication that the President has authorized them to speak for him. The President speaks for himself and has not yet committed himself to Secretary Taft's presidential boom."

The Foraker boomers are also putting out more "hot stuff" to confound the followers of the Secretary of War. They go after ex-Representative Charles P. Taft, hammer and tongs, and demonstrate that the Taft claims have thus far been false. At the start the Taft people claimed that George B. Cox, the Cincinnati boss, and his organization would be with them. But Boss Cox has recently issued a statement refusing to join either faction. Then the Taft camp claimed that State Chairman Walter Brown was with them. But Mr. Brown is now out of a statement which indicates a leaning to the Senatorial candidacy. It has been proclaimed that Gov. Harris is with the Secretary of War but Senator Foraker's friends say this will in due season be disproved.

And, of course, all these and other things are cited by the Forakerites to "weaken the faith of politicians in Washington in the strength of Secretary Taft at home." A Foraker man here recently: "Party leaders in Washington are beginning to doubt the claim that there is a great popular upsurge in Ohio for the Secretary of War."

Secretary Taft is going to open his presidential campaign in Oklahoma and Kansas. He has promised Senator Long to make a speech in the latter state soon, because there is a lot of Taft sentiment there and Mr. Long thinks the Jayhawkers can all be bagged for the Secretary of War if something is done to crystallize the sentiment for him. Kansas has a record for being the pioneer in declaring for the nomination of Republican President. It was the first to declare for Roosevelt at the Republican convention of 1900, under the lead of Senator Burton, afterward put in jail by the President, whose law officers prosecuted him for practicing law before the Departments while a Senator.

During the last two weeks the Taft boom has also been advanced in other States. Some work has been done in Maryland, where there are two Republican factions, one of which, headed by Attorney General Bonaparte, will be for Taft. But it is not known whether that faction will dominate the state, as it has strong opposition. There have been efforts to get a foothold for Taft in New York state, but they have not been very successful. Representative Parsons, the chairman of the New York county committee, has announced his preference for the Secretary of War, but there has been a falling out between Mr. Parsons and President Roosevelt, the result of which can not be foretold just yet. Then Governor Hughes is credited with having a presidential bee and this fact blocks the efforts of the Taft boomers. They have no present hopes in Pennsylvania where Senator Penrose holds the key to the situation. Many members of the House in various states have declared for Taft but the understanding here is that this is done more for the sake of keeping "solid" with the President for a few months than out of any genuine support for the Secretary of War.

Nevertheless there is undoubtedly much sentiment in the Secretary's favor throughout the country. His friends are trying to marshal this sentiment so that its strength in delegates to the next national convention may be realized. It is generally believed in Washington that he has a very good chance to get the nomination but there are few careful politicians who will say that he is yet certain of it. While speculators continue to assert that six months from now the Taft boom will be but a memory. Only the events of the next twelve months will determine.

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STEAMER VIRGINIA RELEASED ON BOND

The British steamer Virginia which was libeled a few days ago on account of trouble in regard to her charter on a former voyage, was released from the care of U. S. Marshal Hendry yesterday. A bond for the sum of \$20,000 was filed with Clerk Hatch, of the Federal court, to secure the claim and the ship was set free from the deputy marshal who has been on board for the last week. The libel was for the sum of \$14,000 and under ordinary circumstances a bond of twice that sum would have been required, but by stipulation between the attorneys representing the steamer and her libelants, the bond for \$20,000 was considered sufficient. The surety for the bond was furnished by S. M. Damon of this city. The Virginia will leave for Australia at once, as she finished discharging her cargo some time ago.

CLEGGHORN NOT A CANDIDATE.

Hon. A. B. Clegg was greatly surprised to find himself mentioned in the Star last evening as a possibility for Governor. "I have never talked with anybody on the subject," he said, "and I would not accept the position if it were tendered. I might have liked to be the first Governor after annexation, but now things have changed and I am committed to a friend. In any event you must count me out."

MUCH SUGAR IS DELAYED HERE

Owing to the fact that the shipment of sugar by the new Tehuantepec route has not been as fast as was expected there is a great amount of this article on hand in these islands at present and the glut of sugar to be handled here will probably continue till late in July and possibly into the month of August. While this fact would seem to be bad news, in reality it is good to those interested in sugar here. Last year at this time sugar was worth 3.43, while at present it is 3.80 and the market is due to keep on going up. The first months of the year the price is always low on account of the fact that the big Cuban crop comes in, and then gradually goes up reaching its highest point about September.

This year the mills in Cuba commenced to grind in December, as against February last year and as the result prices are higher at the present time than they were last season. As the remainder of the crop from these islands reaches the market the price should be constantly going up and the delay in shipping will really make money for those interested, in spite of the fact that they have had to keep the sugar in storage longer.

At present, according to the estimates of Mr. Atherton, of the Sugar Factors' Co., which handles about 80 per cent of the crop, there are about 75,000 tons of sugar on these islands which are waiting to be moved. Last year on May 1 there had been 150,000 tons moved while this year on the same date 125,000 tons have left for the market. There have been a large number of sailing vessels here already and for this reason these figures do not accurately express the difference between the two amounts which have been moved.

The American-Hawaiian expected to move 100,000 tons by May 1 but at this time had only moved 65,000. From now on, however, there will be no increase in the amount which will be in storage here till the end of the season is reached, as the crisis has been passed and the transportation will be faster.

So far this month the following ships have taken out the following sugar cargoes in tons: Bangalore, 3000; Manga Reva, 4000; John Ena, 4000; Mexican, 12,500; Nevada, 48,000; Curtis, 2900; Helene, 1600; Irmgard, 1100. Other big shipments which will go out in the near future are, Californian, 8000; Misourian, 11,000; Nebraska, 5000; Dirigo, 5100. As the output of the mills on the islands is estimated at 50,000 tons per month, it will be seen that there is no longer any danger of a greater glut in storage here than exists at present.

Several plantations have had to build new storage sheds in which to keep their sugar till it could be shipped, among these being Waialua, Oahu and those at Kahului. The railroad storage sheds here are well filled and they had to refuse to take any more sugar from the plantations till more boats came in.

COURT ITEMS.

Argument on exceptions to libel in the admiralty case of J. J. Moore & Co. against British Steamship Virginia was set for hearing before Judge Dole on Saturday, June 1.

Thompson & Clemons for plaintiff have entered a joinder in demurrer in the suit of Troy Laundry Machinery Co., Ltd., v. Sanitary Steam Laundry Co., Ltd., and J. Alfred Magdon. Judgment was signed for plaintiff for \$70 and \$7.75 costs by Judge Robinson in the suit of Harry T. Mills v. Charles Maskey.

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